BENGALURU, TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 70% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 79,960 | Nifty 24,320 | Gold 72,805 | Silver 93,563 | Dollar 83.48 | Euro 90.52 | GBP 107.19

DIY PROJECT

Couple spends weekend filling up crater on road that was ignored for last one-and-half years by authorities

PAGE 3

JUST CHILL

Met dept sees overcast skies, winds at speeds of 30-40 kmph and temperature hovering around 27°C in city

PAGE 5

BBMP makes diversion channels around Doddakallasandra Lake after which BWSSB jumps in and digs to lay pipes, allegedly managing to cause massive damage to trees

APATHY STRIKES AT THE ROOTS

Locals say idea of having sewage pipeline inside lake premise was wrong to begin with

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A pipe-laying work by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) in Doddakallasandra Lake has led to the drying of fully grown and healthy trees inside the lake premise, locals have alleged.

According to lake walkers, this has happened due to damage to tree roots as workers tried to put pipes too close to the roots.

"We were against laying sewage line inside lake area. Then a meeting was convened with the resident welfare association and officials from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and we were assured that no tree would be affected due to the usage of earthmovers. But due to digging of soil using earthmover, many main roots are affected and the trees have now started to dry up," said Soundararajan Rajagopalan, a resident living near Doddakallasandra Lake in south Bengaluru.

Locals say that before the pipeline was laid down, all sewage from nearby residential layouts passed through the concrete canals and flowed into rajakaluve on the south side of the lake. However, BWSSB wanted to divert sewages into a proposed sewage treatment plant and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> "The lake was recently rejuvenated by BBMP. The civic agency should have consulted BWSSB regarding the issue of sewage diversion during the rejuvenation process — Raghavendra B Pachhapur, lake activist

Period leave, woman's right

Panel recommends 1 day per month of menstrual leave; Bill to strengthen policy

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A committee constituted to study the feasibility of implementing menstrual leaves in the private sector across Karnataka has recommended one day per month of menstrual leave.

It has also recommended passing of a legislation by the state legislature — The Right of Women to Menstrual Leave and Free Access to Menstrual Health Products Bill — in order to strengthen the policy.

An 18-member committee headed by Dr Sapna Mohan, Associate Dean at the School of Law at Christ University, has prepared a draft recommendation which will be submitted to the state government in the upcoming weeks. It will further be discussed and deliberated on a government level.

The committee was set up to look into the feasibility of implementing a menstrual leave policy across the state within the private sector, which includes the garment and IT industry. Activists in the field have noted that the policy must also be extended to all women working in the government sector, as it currently only includes ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and women working as home guards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Emotive poems

Spend a peaceful evening by participating in the evocative poetry by Robina Farooq at "Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace." A teacher and a child educator who has headed schools as principal for three decades, having also worked with destitute and underprivileged children on the streets and in slum communities, Robina started knocking on the doors of poetry to give a let-out to her feelings, emotions, and observations of the world around her.
Where: Urban Solace, Opp Ulsoor Lake
When: July 9, 7.30 pm to 9 pm

02 Literary journey

Tune into this conversation between author Lakshmi Swaminathan and architect Chitra Vishwanath as they discuss the extraordinary life of Didi Contractor, an extraordinary self-taught woman architect. This discussion will cover Lakshmi's experience of compiling and editing the life, values, and creations of Didi Contractor in her latest book, 'A Call to Return: A Journey With Didi Contractor.'
Where: Champaca Bookstore
When: July 13, 5 pm

03 Chenda fusion melodies

Immerse yourself in the magic of a live music concert, where vibrant rhythms meet captivating choreography in an unforgettable evening of pure entertainment and artistic expression by Aattam Kalasamithi, one of the most popular percussion bands from Kerala. Feel the energy as singers fill the air with soulful Chenda fusion melodies and dancers bring the stage to life with their electrifying performances.
Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala
When: July 14, 6 pm

Government's watchful eye on 'private university' approvals

Proposals submitted by 9 colleges in state under scrutiny; department resolves to tighten its control to ensure better regulation & compliance

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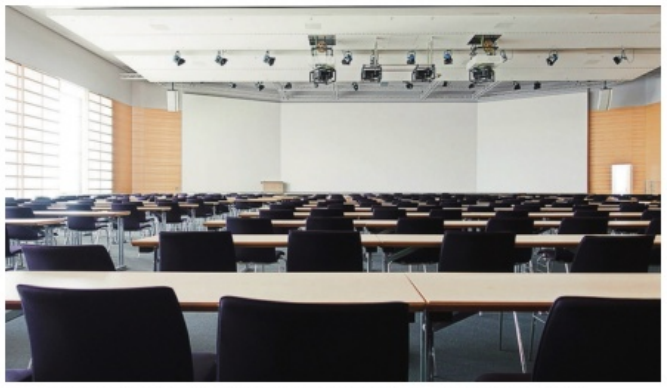
With the rising demand from private colleges to upgrade to 'university status', the state government has decided to adopt a wait-and-watch approach. So far, nine state colleges have submitted proposals to the higher education department seeking recognition as private universities. However, many have faced prolonged delays, with some waiting for years without approval.

The state is grappling with regulatory challenges, so the government has decided to halt the approval process for new private universities temporarily. The state comprises 41 government-run universities, 27 private universities, and 11 deemed-to-be universities. The government's cautious stance stems from its desire to maintain control over the higher education sector, despite the ongoing establishment of new private universities that are proving increasingly difficult to regulate.

Better regulation

Sources said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has subtly indicated to the higher education minister to scrutinise the status proposals of private universities, leading the higher education department to keep these proposals pending. The decision comes amid growing concerns about irregularities within private universities. Last year, a Bengaluru-based private university was discovered to have forged documents to expand its engineering intake from 60 to 600 students. In response to these issues, the higher education department has resolved to tighten its control over private universities to ensure better regulation and compliance.



'Currently, there are 27 private universities in the state'

"The CM has hinted that new private universities will not be allowed. In this context, we are not granting permission for now. –Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar

An educationist said, "The financial burden on students is escalating as more colleges transition to private entities. This shift typically results in increased course fees and greater autonomy, allowing institutions to modify curricula and further hike fees. Such transformations alter the educational landscape. Despite occurrences of illegal activities, the government struggles to maintain control, with authorities often hesitant to intervene."

When contacted, Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar said, "The CM has hinted that new private universities will not be allowed. In this context, we are not granting permission for now. Most private universities in the state were granted permission during the BJP government's tenure." The following colleges have submitted proposals to gain university status: Al-Ameen Trust in Bangalore, NM Trust in Chikkaballapur, Lakshmi Smarak Education Trust in Mangaluru, MG Charitable Trust in Bengaluru, Centre for Muslim Association in Karnataka, Ramanagar, RN Shetty Trust in Bengaluru, Maharaja Education Trust in Mysuru, Gopalan Foundation in Bengaluru, and Kanachur Islamic Education Trust in Mangaluru.

Pros & cons

Defending this move, an educationist said, "Private universities offer numerous benefits, including increased educational opportunities and diverse academic programs. They often provide specialised courses and innovative teaching methods that may not be available in public institutions. They tend to have better infrastructure, modern facilities, and smaller class sizes, leading to a more personalised learning experience. Additionally, they attract experienced faculty from around the world, fostering a multicultural environment that can enhance the overall educational experience. The competition among private universities also drives them to maintain high standards, ensuring quality education and preparing students effectively for the global job market."

However, despite the advantages, regulating private universities presents significant challenges. One major issue is ensuring that these institutions adhere to academic and operational standards. Without stringent oversight, some private universities may engage in unethical practices, such as exorbitant fee hikes, falsification of documents, and inadequate academic delivery, said a senior government official. "Another challenge is maintaining equitable access to education, as the high cost of attending private universities can limit opportunities for students from lower-income backgrounds. The lack of transparency and accountability can also complicate efforts to enforce regulations. Governments must strike a balance between encouraging private investment in higher education and maintaining rigorous oversight to protect students' interests and uphold educational standards."

Initiative dispels superstitions through science

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Science is not just for textbooks and laboratories; it's for everyone, said Anand Raj, president of Breakthrough Science Society (BSS) Karnataka, during the inaugural of the Miracle Busting programme.

BSS Karnataka, dedicated to promoting scientific awareness and dispelling superstitions, held the programme at Prakash Nagar Park, Rajajinagar. The event, aimed at fostering scientific temper and debunking myths, drew a diverse crowd, including children, elders, housewives, and daily walkers. Emphasising the organisation's mission to instill scientific thinking in the community, Raj stated, "Our goal is to empower society with scientific knowledge to address social issues and debunk harmful superstitions."

The programme's highlight was a series of engaging demonstrations by Shakuntala, joint secretary of BSS. She skillfully revealed the tricks behind so-called miracles, showing how fear and insecurity are exploited by those claiming supernatural powers. "Understanding the science behind these tricks is essential to preventing exploitation. We aim to equip people with knowledge so they won't be deceived by false claims," Shakuntala explained.

Dipti B, secretary of BSS Karnataka, spoke on the importance of anti-superstition laws and their impact. Karnataka is the second state in India to enact such a law. "These laws are vital for protecting individuals from fraud and promoting a rational, scientific approach to problem-solving in society," Dipti said.

The event was well-received, with enthusiastic responses from attendees. Children were particularly captivated by the demonstrations, while elders and housewives voiced their support for the initiative. Many walkers praised BSS's efforts in bringing such educational programmes to the community. A participant noted, "In a time when many fall prey to superstitions and false claims, this programme is a breath of fresh air. Promoting scientific thinking is crucial to preventing exploitation."Through their efforts, BSS aims to build a society capable of critical thinking and rational decision-making.

Couple of citizens take up cudgels to fix pothole-riddled road

Duo spends their weekend transforming neglected road that has been in bad state for 18 months

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Here is the story of a couple who spent their precious weekend filling up a crater on the road, which has been craving the attention of the authorities concerned for the last one and a half years near Sobha Hillview at Uttarahalli-Manavartekaval in South Bengaluru. The couple has been known for taking clean-up drives on Saturdays in and around Hemmigepura Ward for the last two years, a move that deserves to be replicated in other areas of Bengaluru. Their concern and commitment are being appreciated by residents.

Subramanya Kodipadi and Chaitanya Subramanya decided to fill up the crater on Saturday evening following their morning clean-up drive routine. "My husband and I were trying to fill the crater with debris and wanted to cover it with soil. It took us one and a half hours (4.30 pm to 6 pm) to fix it temporarily. We used our car to level the M-sand wet mix used to fill the crater," said Chaitanya.

"My husband and I were trying to fill the crater with debris and wanted to cover it with soil. It took us one and a half hours to fix it temporarily. We used our car to level M-sand wet mix used to fill the crater

While Chaitanya and her husband were struggling to find enough debris to fill the crater, a truck driver noticed their attempts to fill the crater. The truck, passing through the road, was carrying M-sand wet mix. "I have to thank the truck driver for generously giving M-sand wet mix to fill up the crater. We are very happy and content to succeed in filling up the crater," said Subramanya.

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) dug up the road for laying pipes but did not bother to restore it, the residents said. "I happened to notice from my flat one car going forward and backward at the spot. I have also asked my husband why the car is moving forward and backward. I thought someone was learning to drive. Later, I came to know that Subramanya and Chaitanya were levelling M-sand wet mix with their car. Filling up the crater will help school bus drivers. Many school buses use this road that has been in bad condition for more than 18 months," said Sreeja Manoj, a resident. The BWSSB did not asphalt the road after laying the pipes, she added.

Meanwhile, BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer Sridhar said that he was not aware of the road's condition, which was dug up more than 18 months ago. "The residents have to approach the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) for asphalting the road. Let the residents approach me. I will guide them towards the right authorities to approach to fix this problem," Sridhar said.

Charge sheet against Darshan to be filed soon

Commenting on the sensational fan murder case that took place exactly one month ago (June 8) involving jailed Kannada superstar Darshan Thoogudeepa, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday stated that sufficient evidence is being collected and the police will file a charge sheet against actor Darshan and others.

Addressing the media persons, Parameshwara stated that after the case came to light, over the course of one month, all the accused have been arrested, evidence is being collected, and the police will file a charge sheet against them. "We can't fast-forward things. There is a laid-down procedure for it. Sufficient evidence will be collected, and a charge sheet will be filed. There is no need to protect or save anyone in this case," he emphasised. **IANS**

Traffic restrictions in Panathur from July 9–12

Due to the construction work on the Railway Bridge underpass by the Railway Department, all types of vehicular traffic will be restricted from Tuesday (July 9, 2024) midnight to Friday (July 12, 2024) between Panathur Dinne and Panathur Railway Bridge, within the limits of the Whitefield Traffic Police Station.

Alternative routes:

Vehicles moving towards Panathur and Kundalahalli from Panathur Dinne can use Balagere Main Road via Silver Oak Road from Gunjur Palya Road.

Vehicles moving towards Panathur Dinne from Panathur can use Gunjur Palya Road via Silver Oak Road from Balagere Main Road. Traffic Police said that commuters are advised to plan their journeys accordingly and use the suggested alternative routes to avoid inconvenience. **BMB**

BSWML's LED boards to shine light on air quality

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In a move to reduce the particulate matter concentration by 20-30 per cent by 2024, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is planning to erect LED projector boards displaying air pollution parameters. The boards will be erected in high-density areas of the city.

As part of the information, education, and communication (IEC) activities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), BSWML is planning to erect LED boards displaying the different air pollution parameters of the city. The move is expected to help the city identify polluted areas and take the necessary steps to reduce them. The project is being planned at a cost of Rs five crore.

BSWML floated a tender to establish LED projector screens in selected parks and lakes, which may include bigger lung spaces like Lalbagh and Cubbon Park. "We are planning this project under the NCAP, and as part of it, nearly 10 per cent of funds are to be used for IEC activities. The project involves erecting LED boards in high-density areas like MG Road and Nruputhunga Road, which will display various air pollution parameters. The board will also show the air quality index of the area along with other traffic and SWM-related awareness messages. The initiative is being funded under the 15th Finance Air Quality Performance Grant. We will be looking at high-density areas and school zones for the project. The project could help authorities identify the highly polluted areas and take the required action to reduce pollution levels," said a senior BSWML official.

File photo of an LED smart display system installed at Cubbon Park on a trial basis

Under NCAP, 122 cities were chosen to achieve a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in particulate matter concentrations by 2024, keeping 2017 as the base year for comparison. In Karnataka, Bengaluru, Devanagere, and Hubli-Dharwad were chosen for the project. As of 2023, Rs 541 crore had been released by the central government, of which 5.47 crore was utilised by the city.

As part of NCAP, 10 continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations were established in BTM Layout, Kadabesanahalli, Bapuji Nagar, City Railway Station, Hebbal, Hombegowda Nagar, Jayanagar 5th Block, Peenya, Sanegurava Halli, and Silk Board within Bengaluru.

Keep land mafia's hands off revived lake: Citizens

Vengaiah Lake's plight much better, but fencing, land recovery must continue

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The rejuvenation of Vengaiah Lake began in March and is in progress. With the fencing of the lake already underway, the residents and lake activists want the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department to reclaim the land allegedly encroached upon by the land mafia. They expressed their satisfaction with the BBMP Lakes Department for starting the rejuvenation of the lake, which had been pending for quite some time. They added that they would be very happy if the authorities reclaimed the encroached land and fenced it.

"I am happy with the authorities for initiating the fencing work around the lake. I want the authorities to expedite the removal of silt from the lake," said Purushotham P, president of KR Puram Rising.

Residents in the vicinity of the lake were facing numerous problems as the lake was full of weeds and sewage. The lake bund along Old Madras Road had been used to dump all types of waste and debris for years. "I want to thank the BBMP Lakes Department for draining the water from the lake and starting the deweeding process. The number of dengue cases would have been higher if the dirty water had not been drained from the lake, which was a breeding ground for mosquitoes," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

He mentioned that the BBMP Lakes Department had begun fencing the lake but had yet to recover the encroached land. "I was told that five acres of lake land had been encroached upon. I want the authorities to take measures to recover the land," he said.

Fencing work in progress near the lake bund

> **The number of dengue cases would have been higher if the dirty water had not been drained from the lake, which was a breeding ground for mosquitoes**
>
> –Balaji Raghotham, lake activist

Criticising the authorities for not recovering the encroached land, Rathna Bharatha Raitha Samaja State President Lakshman L stated that he, along with residents, staged dharnas and wrote letters to higher authorities seeking the restoration of the lake land, but nothing has been done to date. "We brought this issue to the attention of the Bengaluru Urban District Deputy Commissioner, but to no avail. The land mafia constructed buildings and sold them to unsuspecting homebuyers. Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) authorities did not bother to verify whether the land belonged to the lake or whether the buildings were constructed in the buffer zone while considering applications for electricity connections," said Lakshman.

The BBMP Lakes Department has undertaken the rejuvenation of the lake at an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore. It wrote a letter to the Assistant Director of Land Records, Bengaluru East, on March 17, 2022, stating that the survey report on the lake land submitted on March 10, 2022, was incorrect and that there was a discrepancy of 5 acres and seven guntas compared to the original records of the lake land.

"We wrote a letter to the Assistant Director of Land Records two years ago requesting a re-survey of the lake land, but nothing has been done to date. I hope the survey department will re-survey the lake land," said BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Bhuprada.

She mentioned that the rejuvenation of the lake is in progress. "We have taken up the fencing of the lake bund along Old Madras Road," she said.

Driving towards women empowerment

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In Bengaluru, the Mahila Shakti Auto Driving Programme by Namma Yatri is making a significant impact on the lives of women. This initiative helps women achieve financial independence, flexibility, and respect in their work, thereby creating a safer and more inclusive city. So far, nearly 100 women drivers have collectively earned Rs 42 lakhs through this programme.

Recently, the programme celebrated its top women drivers in a ceremony attended by Dr Ramalinga Reddy, the Transport Minister and Muzrai Minister of Karnataka. Dr Reddy praised the programme, stating, "In Karnataka, we take pride in our progressive values and inclusive spirit. By becoming auto drivers, these women are not only earning a livelihood but also reshaping societal norms. Their presence on our roads brings a new dimension to urban mobility, fostering a safer and more welcoming environment for all. This initiative is a testament to the strength and resilience of our women, and we are committed to supporting their journey towards empowerment." The minister also promised support for women drivers, including free training programs, assistance with obtaining licenses, and financial aid for securing loans.

Since its inception, the Mahila Shakti programme has trained numerous women to become auto drivers. Together, these drivers have earned Rs 42 lakhs and driven over 4,00,000 kilometers. This programme is more than just providing jobs; it promotes gender-responsive mobility, financial independence, and flexible job opportunities for women in Bengaluru. The initiative breaks down barriers, allowing women to contribute meaningfully to the city's transportation system while gaining respect and recognition in their communities.

Some of the stories of women drivers like Pallavi, Rajalakshmi, and Tabassum are truly inspiring. Pallavi joined the Mahila Shakti program to secure funds for her son's medical expenses. Through her hard work and the program's support, she has saved enough money for his treatment, lifting a significant burden from her shoulders.

Rajalakshmi, who left a physically demanding job as a delivery person, found independence and flexibility as an auto driver. Since joining Namma Yatri six months ago, she has earned Rs 1.75 lakh without any commission, allowing her to balance work and family life more effectively. Tabassum's journey from driver to trainer showcases the programme's growth potential. With Mahila Shakti's support, she has cleared her debts and is now saving to purchase her own auto, inspiring others with her determination and success. The Mahila Shakti programme offers a free one-month training covering electric auto driving, traffic regulations, app usage, and customer service skills.

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Roads encroached

Pattandur

Road and footpath encroachments are occurring on Pattandur Agrahara Road, near the ITPL back gate.

Dumping zone

RT Nagar

The area around RT Nagar's 12th Cross has turned into a dumping ground for old cars and an unauthorised parking space. This situation needs immediate attention to ensure proper management of the area and prevent further chaos.

Tech waste collection

Mysore Road

Tech waste is being dumped on the road near the front gate of Global Village Tech Park on Poornima Palace Road.

Time to chill in B'luru

City will be expecting moderate rainfall and chilly weather till mid-July, precautions to avoid dengue outbursts being implemented

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According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the city is expected to have overcast skies and consistent winds blowing at speeds of 30-40 kmph. Temperatures are expected to hover around 27°C to 21°C in the city.

Dr N Puviarasan, scientist at IMD, stated, "Due to an off-shore trough at mean sea level along the south Gujarat- north Kerala coasts and strong wind convergence along Coastal Karnataka and adjoining districts, along with a shear zone running approximately along 18°N between 4.5 and 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting southwards with height, we can expect light to moderate rainfall and sustained winds with speeds reaching 30-40 kmph in many areas across Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, and other districts of South Interior Karnataka. Showers are likely to persist in Bengaluru until July 12th."

Meanwhile, many parts of Karnataka are receiving very heavy rainfall. Due to copious rainfall in catchment areas, the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir has surpassed the 100-foot mark. Typically, this milestone is achieved by May or June, but this year, it reached 100.30 feet on July 5th. With the

Due to copious rainfall in catchment areas, the Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir has surpassed the 100-foot mark

Full Reservoir Level (FRL) at 124.80 feet, the reservoir usually fills by August. Despite initial concerns this year, April rains improved conditions, leading to a rise in water levels. Enhanced inflows, particularly from Kodagu and Wayanad regions, peaked at 18,644 cusecs on July 29th.

The KRS reservoir, with a storage capacity of 49.452 TMC currently holds 25.085 Thousand Million Cubic (TMC) feet of water. Out of this, 14.668 TMC is classified as dead storage, leaving the rest available for use. Over a span of just one week, the water level in the reservoir has surged by 10 feet, rising from 90.30 feet on July 28th to 100.30 feet on July 5th. The rapid increase in water level is attributed to heightened inflows.

The current water level in the reservoir is significantly higher compared to last year, standing at 21.74 feet above the level recorded then. Last year, the water level was at 78.56 feet, accompanied by an inflow of 2023 cusecs and an outflow of 310 cusecs. The KRS reservoir has surpassed the 100 feet mark, prompting the decision to commence water release into the canals.

Helmet-less riders account for nearly 70% of traffic violations this year

Bengaluru recorded more than 46 lakh violations of people riding without helmets within the first half of 2024

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People without helmets accounted for 68 percent of the total traffic violations recorded in the city in 2024. Bengaluru recorded 46,07,877 violations in the first six months of 2024. As of May, riders without helmets contributed to the highest number of violations, amounting to 19,33,157 violations. In addition, 12,07,759 cases were registered for pillion riders without helmets.

Riders have a series of excuses to not wear helmets, from not requiring helmets within the city limits as they are apparently riding at slow speeds to helmets being uncomfortable, claustrophobic and ruining their hairstyles. "Monitoring riders across all the lanes and by-lanes is challenging. The real question is, do we (riders) wear helmets to avoid penalties or to avoid death?" asked Sidhartha, a resident, adding that stricter enforcement might not provide results, rather creative initiatives like "gifting" helmets to offenders could show gradual success.

As of May, riders without helmets contributed to the highest number of violations, amounting to 19,33,157 violations

"On the E-City Flyover, in front of my motorcycle tire, one half-helmet flew from the opposite direction, and I was about to get into an accident. The Traffic Department should increase fines for all such violators for wearing non-ISI helmets," said Dave, another resident.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, South Traffic Shiva Prakash Devaraju told BM, "Despite a lot of awareness, people are not wearing helmets, generally youth, college-going students, and labourers. The reason is carelessness. The police are actively issuing fines and promoting awareness programmes regarding this. Police should be more strict in issuing fines so that people will not try to violate the law."

Dengue Updates

Cases expected to rise due to rain

The recent rains have led to an increase in dengue outbreaks in Bengaluru. On Monday, the city reported 95 dengue cases out of 115 tests. To combat the outbreak, 3,000 teams of health officials, ASHA workers, ANMs, and volunteers are conducting door-to-door surveys and distributing pamphlets. Since January 2024, Bengaluru has recorded 3,815 dengue cases, with 776 cases from July 1 to 6. Intensive fogging and spraying of insecticides are ongoing in high-case areas. Citizen cooperation in preventing mosquito breeding at home is crucial to curbing dengue transmission.

CM warns officials on negligence

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reprimanded Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), emphasising they are public servants, not maharajas. He warned that senior officers would be held accountable for failing to contain the dengue outbreak. At the Vidhana Soudha meeting, he stressed the need for swift, coordinated efforts to control dengue and warned against negligence, including in water contamination cases. He criticised the officers for their inadequate handling of public grievances, leading to a surge in petitions. Siddaramaiah clarified that the meeting was intended as a review, not mere criticism. **IANS**

BMTC, BBMP launch mosquito control drive

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), in collaboration with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), initiates dengue control measures across 48 depots, 10 Traffic and Transit Management Centres (TTMCs), and major bus stations in Bengaluru. Managing Director Ramachandran R directs comprehensive steps to prevent water stagnation, including larvicide spraying and waste management. This proactive effort follows State Department of Health and Family Welfare guidelines amid a spike in dengue cases. **BMB**

No need to declare health emergency, says Minister

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao stated there is no need to declare dengue a "medical emergency" despite the opposition BJP's suggestion. He assured that preventive measures are being taken amid rising cases, including increased testing and treatment. The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the situation on Sunday. **PTI**

MUDA land "scam": Karnataka Home Minister says no "cover up", rules out SIT probe

Cong MLA K Harishgowda and MUDA commissioner K Marigowda display documents in support of CM Siddaramaiah in MUDA alternate sites allotment case in Mysuru on Monday

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday rubbished allegations that the government was trying to cover up the alleged fraudulent allotment of compensatory sites to land losers, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi, by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Ruling out a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged scam, he noted that the Chief Minister has already clarified on the matter.

'We will not cover up anything, ours (government) is like an open book. There is no need to cover up anything in it. The Chief Minister has clarified, we need not speak about it repeatedly,' Parameshwara said in response to a question on whether the government is conspiring to cover up the scam.

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy last week took an indirect swipe at Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar stating that the MUDA site allotment scam was exposed by a 'person who is eyeing the Chief minister's post'.

Reacting to this, Parameshwara said: 'Regarding what Kumaraswamy has said, I don't have any information.'

Asked if the government will form an SIT to probe the case, he said, 'No. There is no need for it. The Chief Minister has given the clarification. What is the need to inquire?'. **PTI**

Trees drying up after earthmover cuts into main roots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started digging on the opposite side of rajakaluve (the north side of the lake), damaging three trees in the process.

Residents, citing examples from other lakes in the city, say sewage pipeline running inside the lake premise will lead to various issues in the future.

"Kothanur Lake is a case in point. The lake has a sewage line running inside its premises. There have been many occasions in the past that the network gets blocked leading to spillover. In Kothanur, it does not enter the water body, but it leads to inconvenience to the public," said another resident.

Pollutant alert

City-based lake activists say any such spillover at Doddakallasandra will lead to sewage entering the lake. They underline that the recently rejuvenated water body is rich in biodiversity and pollutants entering the lake would lead to loss of biodiversity.

"The lake hosts many migratory bird species and is rich in aquatic life and other biodiversity. Such mismanagement, whether loss of trees inside the lake premise or entry of sewage into the water body would only lead to loss of aquatic life," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a city-based lake activist.

Activists say such lapses are mainly due to a lack of coordination among government agencies.

"The lake was recently rejuvenated by BBMP. The civic agency should have consulted BWSSB regarding the issue of sewage diversion during the rejuvenation process.

However, BBMP went ahead and carried out the process investing lakhs of rupees in diversion channels, followed by BWSSB now drawing a pipeline for sewage diversion. This only shows a total lack of coordination between these agencies," added Pachhapur.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, KOTA RAMAIAH SURYANARAYANA S/o Kota Ramaiah Subramanyam Setty R/at No.33/25, 5B, 5th Floor, SVG Manhattan Residency, Vasavi Temple Road, VV Puram, Bangalore- 560004, have changed my name to KOTA SUBRAMANYAMSETTY SURYANARAYAN vide affidavit dated: 8/7/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, SAMPATH CHALUVAYA VOKKALIGA, Residing at No.1259, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, 17th Main, Muneshwara Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560026, have changed my name as SAMPAT CHALUVE GOWDA VOKKALIGA, vide affidavit dated 08/07/2024, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I Kiranmayi Mandava W/O, Sreenivas Boyapati R/o D104, Purva Fountain Square Apartment, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560037 have changed my name to Kiranmayi Boyapati.

I, Mihir Menon, 19 years, S/o Shishir Chandrasekhar Menon, and R/o 3043, Prestige Tranquility, Budigere Cross, Bommenahalli Bangalore-49, hereby declare to have changed my name from Mihir to Mihir Menon, vide Affidavit dt. 06 Jul 2024, sworn before Notary G. Rajendra, Bangalore-77

I, Aaditya, R/o A1 407, White house Complex, R.T Nagar, Bengaluru:560032, have changed my name from Aaditya to Aaditya Vaidya (Aaditya is my First Name and Vaidya is my Surname) via Affidavit dated 25 Jun 2024 , bfr Notary Y.R Chandrasekar

I, Shivakumar Kannur S/o Vijaykumar S Kannur R/o 40, 4th cross, 1st main, 2nd block, NMH Lyt, Nagasandra, Sidedahalli, B'luru 560073 have changed my name to Shivakumar V Kannur Affidavit Dt.08/07/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Parikshitha S G S/o Giddegowda. Sulagalale, Belur Taluk, Hassan 573127 today camp at Bengaluru,have changed my name to Parikshith S G Affidavit Dt.08/07/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, DEEPA KULKARNI, residing at No.16, 2nd B Cross, ITI Layout, Katriguppe Main Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560085, have changed my name as DEEPA GURURAJ KATTI, vide affidavit dated 08/07/2024, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, SUMEERA TAJ, wife of Mohamed Burhan Sharief, aged 30 yrs, R/at No. 166/1, 5th B Main Rd, Rahmath Nagar, RT Nagar B'lore-32 have changed my name to SUMERA TAJ by affidavit sworn before notary CV Earappa on 06.07.24

I Sandeep Kumar Jain S/O, Lt Prem Chand Jain R/o No 52163, 16th Floor, Prestige Falcon City, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore have changed my name to Sandeep Jain.

MISSING

Person Missing

I, G.Srilakshmi W/o Rammohan Reddy, resident of No.1295, 7th Block, Arkavati Block, Jakkuru, Bangalore-560064 stating that, my father **Govinda Somesekhar Reddy** was missing from Jakkuru on 01.06.2024. Searched everywhere, but could not be found. I have filed a complaint on 06.06.2024 to Amritahalli Police Station for searching my father. I request you to find my father who has amnesia. Appropriate reward will be given to those who find out. If he found, contact the above address or phone: **98545623974, 7569689134.**

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Policy must include all women in govt sector, say activists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Right of women

The draft has recognised menstrual leaves as the right of women. It has recommended that the paid menstrual leave be extended to all female employees within the age of 55 years, to be treated confidentially, without the requirement of medical documentation. It has also called on the government to put in place relevant penalty clauses for employers who deny the leave.

"In India, menstrual leave remains a voluntary initiative rather than a statutory requirement under current labour laws such as the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. Recent legal developments, including a Supreme Court decision directing stakeholders to address menstrual pain leave through policy frameworks rather than court mandates, highlight the evolving nature of this issue.

Despite the absence of legal compulsions, many employers are increasingly recognising the importance of menstrual health as part of comprehensive employee welfare and retention strategies," the draft recommendation notes.

Sanjana Rao, an IT employee, told Bangalore Mirror that since employers may shy away from hiring women considering that they would be required to provide excess paid leaves, an option of providing six or more additional sick leaves per year must be considered. "These additional leaves can be used when women employees begin their menstruation. Deeming them as menstrual leaves and designating a day per month might make employers look at the benefit with a lens of production loss. They may consider agreeing to the option of providing additional sick leaves," she said.

On the other hand, Misbah Sheikh, a sales employee, said that the arguments currently being raised against menstrual leaves were previously raised against maternity leaves provided to women. "The government as well as employers must keep in mind the larger benefit of introducing menstrual leaves. It would in virtue help bring in more women into the workforce and create a positive social environment. While opinions of individual organisations must be taken into consideration, a firm decision keeping in mind the menstrual health of women, must be enforced," she said.

Supreme Court directions

The Supreme Court on Monday has directed the Centre to frame a model policy on menstrual leave for women employees by holding consultations with States and other stakeholders. The court also clarified that the order would not hinder state governments from making decisions for the betterment of the employees working within their state boundaries.

"There are two very different perspectives, having that menstrual leave policy encourages the women to be part of the workforce; the other perspective is, that mandating such policies will actually impose sort of a bar on women being employed because the employer will then shun women in the workplace.

We do not want that to happen also," the court said. "We request the secretary to look into the matter at the policy level and take a decision after consulting all stakeholders and see if a model policy can be framed," it added.

Initiate action against NEET-UG paper leak beneficiaries: SC

Testing agency asked to come clean on leak to decide on retest; next hearing on July 11

Asking the Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) about the action initiated against the wrong beneficiaries in the NEET-UG examination held on May 5, the Supreme Court on Monday remarked that denial to the allegations of paper leak is only adding to the problem.

To decide if a re-test should be ordered in entirety, a bench, headed by CJI DY Chandrachud directed the NTA to make a full disclosure before the apex court regarding the nature of the paper leak, the places where leaks took place, and lag of time between the occurrence of the leak and the conduct of the examination.

The Bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) to file a status report indicating the status of investigations and the material collected during the course of investigations.

"The IO shall place the material collected during the course of investigation when the leak is alleged to have taken place and when the leaked question paper was made available," it ordered.

Further, the apex court said if feasible, it would utilise technology and law to identify the beneficiary of wrongdoings, so 23 lakh students do not need to appear in re-exam.

The matter will be heard next on July 11. In a preliminary affidavit filed before the top court last week, the Centre opposed the cancellation of the NEET-UG exam saying that scrapping the entire exam would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper held on May 5.

Students at the premises of the Supreme Court, on Monday

The affidavit filed by the Union Ministry of Education said: "In the absence of any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in a pan-India examination, it would not be rational to scrap the entire examination and the results already declared. It is submitted that in any examination, there are competing rights that have been created whereby the interests of a large number of students who have taken the examination without adopting any alleged unfair means must not also be jeopardised."

> **"The IO shall place the material collected during the course of investigation when the leak is alleged to have taken place and when the leaked paper was made available** –SC order

As regards the alleged instances of irregularities, including cheating, impersonation, and malpractices, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is undertaking an investigation and has taken over the cases registered in different states, it added.

The issue relating to the grant of grace marks in the NEET-UG exam has already been closed by the Supreme Court after NTA submitted the scorecards of 1,563 candidates, who were awarded compensatory marks on account of the loss of time, had been withdrawn and cancelled. These candidates were given the option to appear in a re-test or may appear in counselling on the basis of actual marks obtained in the exam without normalisation. **–IANS**

Plea to put 3 sets of new criminal laws on hold

Lawyers and activists are urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to put on hold three sets of new criminal laws, arguing they will increase litigation in an already overburdened justice system and give excessive powers to police.

India this month replaced its criminal justice system - the Indian Penal Code of 1860, the 1973 Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 - with new laws.

The new laws, in force since July 1, expand police powers on pre-trial detention of an accused and introduce the death penalty for gang-rape of women aged under 18, among other provisions. They also mandate judges to issue written rulings within 45 days after a trial ends and for charges to be framed within 60 days of the first court hearing in a case.

Indian lawyers fear old cases could continue to drag on as the ruling deadlines apply only to new cases after July 1. And there is confusion which laws - old or new - will apply to cases registered after July 1 for a crime committed before that date.

"It only increases and complicates work for lawyers," said Delhi-based lawyer Shadan Farasat, adding that many provisions will need to be interpreted afresh by courts which could increase litigation.

Two lawyer associations with more than 13,000 members in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu have announced plans to boycott court work on Monday in protest against the laws.

The home ministry and law ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

India says thousands of judiciary officials, public prosecutors and police officers have been trained in how to apply the new laws. Modi's government says there are "various misconceptions" being spread about the laws which are "victim-centric" and will make the system "most modern" in the world.

"The new laws have made forensic investigation mandatory in offences punishable by 7 years or more, which will help speed up justice and take the conviction rate up to 90%," the government said last week.

The new laws also add punishment for crimes such as mob lynching and hate speeches, but have faced criticism for not offering any protection to men if they are raped.

India's Constitution empowers states to modify such laws. In Karnataka, the government has said it will make more than 20 changes to the new laws, criticizing provisions it says even criminalize a hunger strike against the government in protest.

Human rights group Amnesty says Indian authorities must "immediately repeal" the new laws as they could allow for police abuse.

Police can now seek the same maximum 15-day custody as earlier but it can be done in whole or part over a longer time frame. Older laws only allowed such custody to be exhausted within the first 15 days of an arrest.

This "provides a fertile breeding ground for torture and other ill-treatment," Amnesty said. **– Reuters**

Liquor at MP's victory party; Cong targets BJP

Liquor bottles were allegedly distributed to people who attended a thanksgiving programme organised to celebrate the victory of BJP's K Sudhakar from Chikkaballapura Lok Sabha segment, according to sources.

Videos of people being handed liquor bottles with police personnel and "bouncers" around managing the crowd amid barricades, have gone viral on social media.

According to sources, leaders, workers and supporters of BJP's alliance partner JD(S) also attended the event on Sunday, near here, organised by local BJP leaders, where non-vegetarian food was also served.

Opposition Leader in the Assembly R Ashoka and other BJP and JD(S) leaders had taken part in the stage event.

According to official sources, the excise department had given the licence to serve liquor at the event.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday demanded "answers" from BJP President J P Nadda on the liquor serving issue.

"I don't want local (BJP) leaders to reply to it. I want the BJP national President to reply to it. It is the culture of the BJP," he told reporters here.

> **Videos of people being handed liquor bottles with police personnel and 'bouncers' around have gone viral on social media**

Asked whether any case will be booked, he said: "That is the next point, first let the party (BJP) answer to it."

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, in a tweet, said, "Saying one thing doing another....BJP leaders are busy distributing liquor while the state is dengue-stricken. Where are the BJP leaders who questioned me swimming at the swimming pool when I visited Mangalore (Mangaluru)? Is this your culture?"

Stating that he has nothing to do with the incident and is pained, MP Sudhakar said whoever has organised distribution of liquor, whether it is BJP or JD(S) workers, it is "wrong", and it will be ensured that such things are not repeated.

"Taluk BJP and JD(S) workers had organised the event and they had invited me and Leader of Opposition Ashoka. We came out after attending the meeting. Whatever happened after the event, I came to know through the media," he said.

" I'm not aware whether the organisers of the event distributed liquor or whether the attendees consumed it....In my 20 years of political life I have never done politics by distributing liquor. It should not be done, it is unpardonable, I have told everyone," Sudhakar, a former Karnataka Health Minister, added. **–PTI**

One-time settlement has not found many takers

As July 31 deadline comes closer, BBMP manages to collect just ₹463 cr in taxes while ₹624.8 cr is still outstanding

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The BBMP's initiative to boost revenue through the 'One Time Settlement' (OTS) aimed at recovering unpaid taxes has received a tepid response. As the deadline of July 31 approaches, the civic authority has managed to collect Rs 463.03 crore, leaving Rs 624.88 crore still outstanding.

According to the data, BBMP officials have successfully collected Rs 73.9 crore in the Bommanahalli zone, with Rs 82.77 crore still outstanding. In the Dasarahalli zone, BBMP has gathered Rs 16.37 crore while awaiting Rs 22.21 crore. Moving to the East zone, BBMP has accumulated Rs 70.57 crore and is awaiting Rs 87.14 crore. In the Mahadevapura zone, BBMP has managed to collect Rs 109.37 crore and still has to collect Rs 140.04 crore. For RR Nagar, the collection stands at Rs 33.78 crore, with Rs 49.74 crore yet to be collected. In the South zone, BBMP has received Rs 71.94 crore and awaits Rs 96.63 crore. In the West zone, Rs 50.83 crore has been collected, leaving Rs 97.18 crore outstanding. Lastly, in Yelahanka, BBMP has collected Rs 36.27 crore and awaits Rs 49.16 crore.

An official said, "Despite the launch of the OTS on February 27 aimed at easing property tax burdens by waiving 50 pc of penalties and interest, many property owners with overdue tax payments have not participated. As of now, only Rs 463 crore has been collected, significantly below the anticipated Rs 1000 crore. Out of the 5.51 lakh property tax defaulters in the city, merely 1.52 lakh have settled their dues under the scheme, leaving 3.24 lakh defaulters yet to take advantage of the opportunity. The BBMP had hoped for substantial tax revenue through this initiative but has faced a lacklustre response from taxpayers."

Despite the BBMP issuing notices to 3.95 lakh property owners for overdue property tax payments, only 70,000 have settled their dues. The majority of property owners have not responded to the notices. Furthermore, between 5 to 7 lakh properties are yet to be brought under the tax net.

"While some property owners have participated in the scheme, a significant number have not responded to the notices. The BBMP had anticipated a substantial increase in tax revenue through this scheme, but the response from property owners has been tepid," added another official.

When contacted, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, stated, "It is time to act now and take benefit of OTS. We are encouraging citizens to utilise the scheme before July 31. Following a review meeting at the BBMP head office on Monday, we have found that approximately 4 lakh property owners are eligible for the scheme, with 80,000 having already taken advantage by settling their dues. The remaining 3.20 lakh property owners have until July 31 to avail themselves of the scheme and clear their pending taxes. For any queries regarding the OTS, including payment details and locations, you can dial the toll-free helpline at 1533 to receive the necessary assistance."

> **"The BBMP had anticipated a substantial increase in tax revenue, but response has been tepid** —BBMP official

Meanwhile, apart from OTS, the property tax collection is also yet to pick up. Between April and June last year, the BBMP collected Rs 2,287 crore in property taxes, whereas this year, up until July 7, only Rs 1,758 crore has been collected.

This marks a decrease of Rs 528 crore from the previous year's collections. The implementation of the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme is attributed to this decline. As of July 7, the collection figures stand at Rs 139.22 crore in Yelahanka zone, Rs 398.79 crore in Mahadevapura, Rs 60.37 crore in Bommanahalli, Rs 125.95 crore in RR Nagar, Rs 203.85 crore in South zone, Rs 211.54 crore in East zone and Rs 294.21 crore in Dasarahalli zone.

IN BRIEF

Former BJP minister's son-in-law found dead

Former BJP Minister and senior leader BC Patil's son-in-law allegedly committed suicide in Honnali forest area in Davanagere district on Monday. The deceased, identified as 41-year-old Pratap Kumar KG, a resident of Kattalagere Village near Davanagere, was married to the eldest daughter of former minister Patil.

According to police, Pratap parked his car on the roadside in Honnali forest area and allegedly consumed poison. The locals rushed Pratap to hospital after noticing him struggling in the car. He breathed his last at the hospital. —IANS

Minor throws infant into well after rejection

In a shocking case, a minor threw a three-month-old girl into a well after the baby's uncle refused her love proposal in Yadgir district, said officials on Monday.

The deceased baby was the daughter of a couple residing in Ambedkar Layout in Yadgir city. According to police, the accused minor girl lived in a neighbouring house and had fallen in love with the baby's paternal uncle, Yallappa.

The accused confessed to committing the crime because she was in love with the man. —ANI

BM Trippin' Tales

Unsafe seas: Tourists risk lives by flouting rules

Training for life guards at Karwar beach (file photo)

> **Many beaches marked with warning sign boards and manned by small team of lifeguards, but tourists still careless**

Despite the onset of the monsoon season and rough seas, tourists continue to flock to many beaches, thus risking their lives. However, the lack of adequate lifeguard facilities poses a significant challenge for authorities. Many beach stretches in the state are marked with warning sign boards and manned by a small team of lifeguards trying their best to ensure visitor safety. Despite these efforts, tourists often disregard warnings and venture into perilous waters, not only endangering themselves but also straining the limited lifeguard resources.

For instance, at the Tagore beach in Karwar, there are only three personnel on duty monitoring the entire beach, and responding to emergencies becomes increasingly difficult for the lifeguards. They have urgently requested additional staff to enhance their capacity to manage safety effectively. Meanwhile, critical infrastructure like watchtowers meant for lifeguards is in disrepair, further complicating their ability to oversee the beach and swiftly respond to incidents. One watchtower near the Hanuman statue is completely damaged, with rusted pillars and a torn roof, rendering it unusable. Another tower, located behind the food court, suffers from rusted pillars and precarious conditions worsened by wind.

Hence, the authorities are not only appealing to tourists to heed warnings but also planning to deploy more lifeguards and repair essential infrastructure like watchtowers. Recently, Home Guard personnel have aimed to support lifeguards in managing visitor safety more effectively. Despite setbacks such as withdrawn funds for lifeguard shed construction last year, the district tourism department now plans to repair these facilities independently to bolster safety measures.

The lifeguards themselves face challenges in managing the beach due to inadequate staffing. With only three personnel on duty at any given time, covering the entire three-kilometre stretch becomes a daunting task. They are tasked with not only monitoring swimmers but also responding swiftly to distress calls and providing immediate assistance when needed.

Officials said that tourists, many of whom come from outside the district and may not fully appreciate the sea's unpredictability during the monsoon, are asked to heed warnings from authorities and exercise caution. —Sridhar Vivan

HEALTH TIP: Cauliflower is a good source of folate that supports cell growth and is essential during pregnancy

Carrots have calcium and vitamin K, which are important for bone health

DO NOT MARGINALISE

SC issues guidelines on portrayal of persons with disabilities in visual media

The Supreme Court on Monday laid down guidelines in connection with portrayal of the persons with disabilities (PWD) by visual media and directed to avoid language that individualises the impairment and overlooks the disabling social barrier.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said," As long as the overall message of the film justifies the depiction of disparaging language being used against persons with disabilities, it cannot be subjected to restrictions beyond those placed in Article 19(2). However, language that disparages persons with disabilities, marginalises them further and supplements the disabling barriers in their social participation, without the redeeming quality of the overall message of such portrayal must be approached with caution."

The top court noted that such representation is problematic not because it offends subjective feelings but rather, because it impairs the objective societal treatment of the affected groups by society.

"We believe that representation of persons with disabilities must regard the objective social context of their representation and not marginalise persons with disability," the top court said while laying down guidelines.

Among the guidelines, the first one by the top court is about the "words cultivate institutional discrimination."

"Terms such as "cripple" and "spastic" have come to acquire devalued meanings in societal perceptions about persons with disabilities. They contribute to the negative self-image and perpetuate discriminatory attitudes and practices in society," the court said.

The court also directed that language that individualises the impairment and overlooks the disabling social barriers (eg terms such as "afflicted", "suffering", and "victim") should be avoided or adequately flagged as contrary to the social model.

The apex court also said that the creators must check for accurate representation of a medical condition as much as possible. The misleading portrayal of what a condition such as night blindness entails may perpetuate misinformation about the condition, and entrench stereotypes about persons with such impairments, aggravating the disability, the top court said.

Besides this, the other guidelines are that visual media must reflect the lived experiences of Persons with disabilities, who are under-represented and said that their portrayal must capture the multitudes of their lived realities, and should not be a uni-dimensional, ableist characterisation.

"Visual media should strive to depict the diverse realities of persons with disabilities, showcasing not only their challenges but also their successes, talents, and contributions to society. This balanced representation can help dispel stereotypes and promote a more inclusive understanding of disability. Such portrayals should reflect the multifaceted lives of persons with disabilities, emphasizing their roles as active community members who contribute meaningfully across various spheres of life. By highlighting their achievements and everyday experiences, media can shift the narrative from one of limitation to one of potential and agency," the court said.

"They should neither be lampooned based on myths (such as, 'blind people bump into objects in their path') nor presented as 'super cripples' on the other extreme. This stereotype implies that persons with disabilities have extraordinary heroic abilities that merit their dignified treatment. For instance, the notion that visually impaired persons have enhanced spatial senses may not apply to everyone uniformly. It also implies that those who do not have such enhanced superpowers to compensate for the visual impairment are somehow less than ideal," it added.

"Decision-making bodies must bear in mind the values of participation. The 'nothing about us, without us' principle, is based on the promotion of participation of persons with disabilities and the equalisation of opportunities. It must be put to practice in constituting statutory committees and inviting expert opinions for assessing the overall message of films and their impact on the dignity of individuals under the Cinematograph Act and Rules," the top court said.

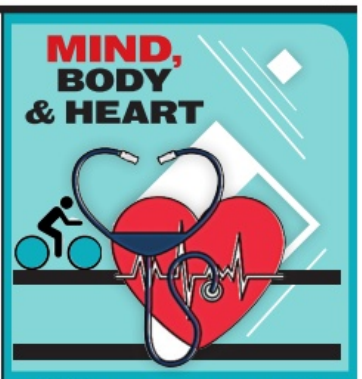
"The CPRD also requires consultation with and involvement of persons with disabilities in the implementation of measures to encourage portrayal that is consistent with it," the top court said. "Collaboration with disability advocacy groups can provide invaluable insights and guidance on respectful and accurate portrayals, ensuring that content aligns with the lived experiences of persons with disabilities," the top court said.

"Training and sensitization programs should be implemented for individuals involved in creating visual media content, including writers, directors, producers, and actors. These programs should emphasize the impact of their portrayals on public perceptions and the lived experiences of persons with disabilities. Topics should include the principles of the social model of disability, the importance of respectful language, and the need for accurate and empathetic representation. Regular workshops and collaboration with disability advocacy groups can foster a deeper understanding and commitment to responsible portrayal," the top court said.

The court direction came on Nipun Malhotra's petition who is the founder of an organisation that promotes awareness about disabilities, conducts policy research and provides education to underprivileged children. The appellant was aggrieved by the manner in which persons with disabilities have been portrayed in the movie titled 'Aankh Micholi'. He challenged the judgment dated 15 January 2024 of the High Court of Delhi by which a petition was dismissed on grounds of maintainability.

The appellant sought guidelines against filmmakers, regarding the provisions of the RPwD Act and the composition of the Board and the Advisory panel under the Cinematograph Act and recommendations to beep certain parts of the present film as well.

"We endorse slow interference with the determination of an expert body under the Cinematograph Act, particularly to allow the exhibition of a film. It is for the Board to draw the line between permissible and impermissible portrayal of social ills through visual media, and ensure that the Guidelines are meant to be read as broad standards for the same.109 The certification in the present case implies that the Board found that the overall message of the film was in accordance with the guidelines and the RPwD Act.110 We are not inclined to interfere with this finding by recommending beeping out parts of the film, especially considering the inclusion of a disclaimer in the film," the top court said. **ANI**



All you need to know about...

Dating tips

Before swiping
To make potential matches exclaim "Where have you been all my life?" happn, the real-life dating app, has got you covered with the perfect tips. Take note of these before you start swiping again!

1. Offer A Sneak Peek Into Your Life: Give potential dates a mini teaser of your life in the most personalised way possible. It's all about getting creative with what matters with a dash of authenticity, because, let's face it, keeping it real goes a long long way.

2. Picture Perfect: Photos are your first impression, so make them count! Show off your dazzling smile, capture yourself in a favourite activity, and stick to just one pet pic (trust us on this one). And, remember, keep the group shots to a minimum – this is your time to shine!

3. Hook Them With Hobbies: Are you a fierce competitor in board games or a doting plant mom? A meme connoisseur or a karaoke superstar? Your crush would love to know all about it – so let your quirky side shine through.

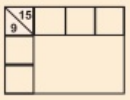
4. Humour And Humility: Humour is the ultimate icebreaker, so why not sprinkle some into your profile? A funny anecdote or a playful comment can make you stand out. Just remember to balance it with a touch of humility – confidence is attractive, but arrogance is not.

5. Honesty Is The Best Policy: Misrepresenting yourself might catch some eyes, but it won't lead to genuine connections – especially with those who value honesty. Real relationships thrive on honesty, so be authentic – your potential matches will thank you for it!

—Sharon Dsilva, Femina

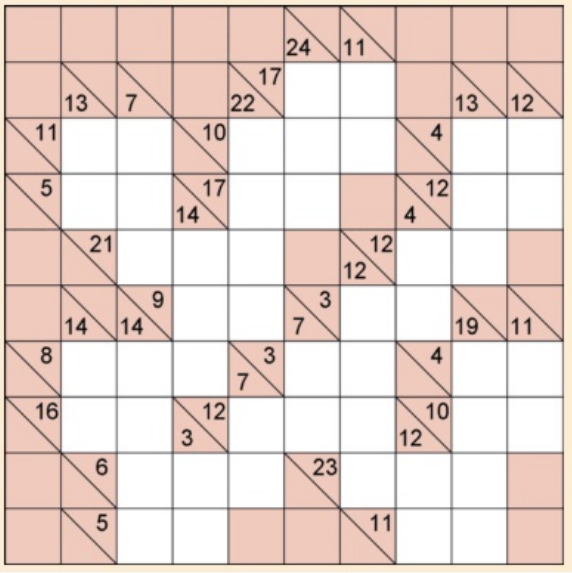
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

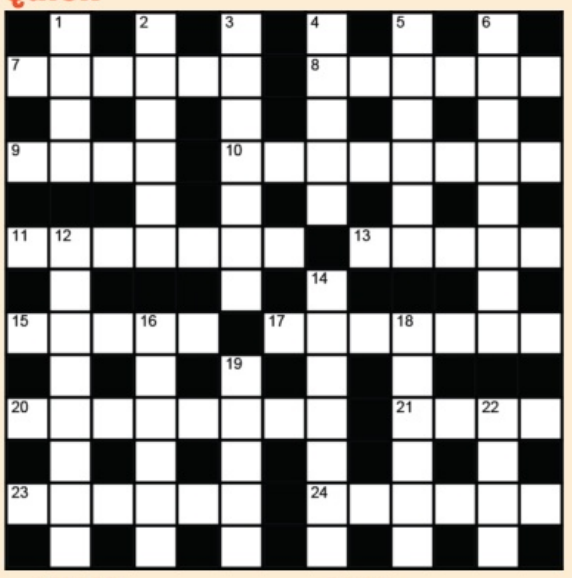


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Go away! (6)
8 Purchased (6)
9 ___ fide : real and genuine ? (4)
10 Indicating or meaning (8)
11 Microsoft OS (7)
13 African country (5)
15 Tender (5)
17 Sitting room in a private house (7)
20 Underground cemetery (8)
21 Cooking space (4)
23 Dirty animal shed (6)
24 Japanese entertainer (6)

DOWN

1 San ___ : Italian city (4)
2 Disney's duck (6)
3 Hayfields (7)
4 Black timber (5)
5 Steal cattle? (6)
6 Say it to be polite and appreciative? (5,3)
12 Beneath one's dignity, colloquially speaking? (5,3)
14 Bangalore's famed botanical gardens (7)
16 Slip by; pass away (6)
18 Make short visit? (4-2)
19 Small growth of mucous membrane (5)
22 Returned sound (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS N

BZLXL JF UN TVNXP JU KYBBVL ONXBZ BZL KVNNQ JB INFBF.

Linemaro

Is your name Googlia? You have everything I am searching for

Mindchow

In life you meet two kinds of people: Those who build you up, and those who tear you down. In the end, you will thank both

Joke of the day

There's an adorable video of three grandmoms trying weed for the first time. And an adorable video of three grandkids tearing the room apart, crying 'Where the xx is our weed'

Loop

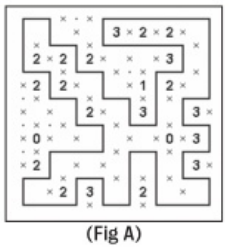
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

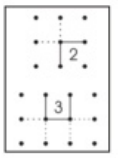
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

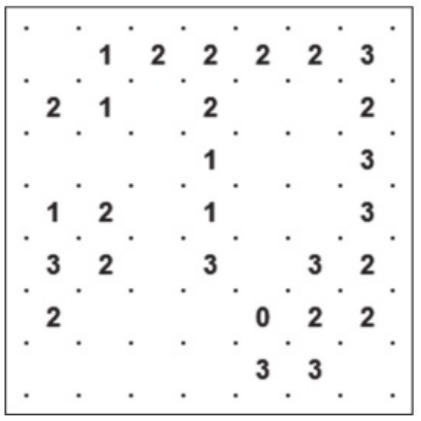
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



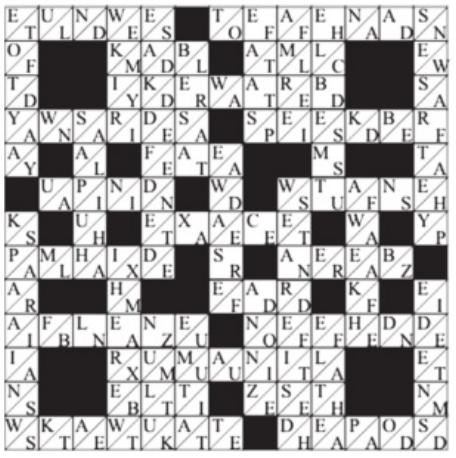
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



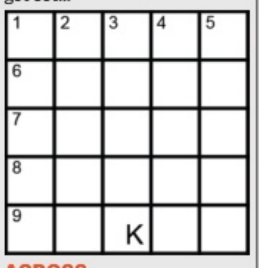
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

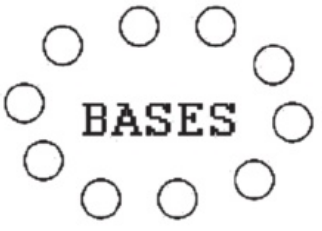
1 Prays; 6 In une;
7 Poets; 8 A rale;
9 Dak we

DOWN

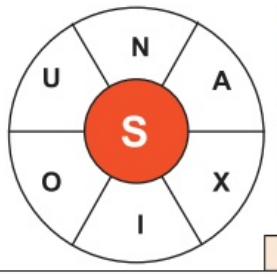
1 Wears; 2 Ratan;
3 Ken so; 4 Ape up;
5 I'd lye

Mensapuzzle

Solve this brain bat:



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

					9		4	
7		4	5			8		
			8					6
4	6					2	9	
		9	7		2	3		
	2	8					5	7
5					3			
		6			4	5		8
	1		9					

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10
1 7 7 9

Medium = 1
3 5 8 9

Hard = 32
2 3 6 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Column is missing. 2. Roof is different. 3. Paper is added. 4. Top of desk is thicker. 5. Pen is added. 6. Phone cord is different.

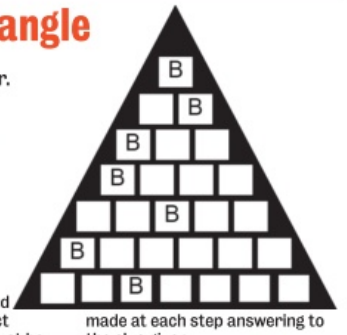
Riddler

In this teaser, your job is form four (4) complete words from list A, B, & C. In each list, there are parts of words. Choose one word part from each list (A, B, C) to form the new word. Example: Corn + Erst + One = Cornerstone

A: Pen, Flag, Deb,
In B: On, Fan, El, Tag C: Late, On, Tile, Air

Alpha triangle

1 Second letter
2 Able-bodied, abbr.
3 Prohibit
4 Stand
5 Cavalry weapon
6 Bread makers
7 Goes ashore

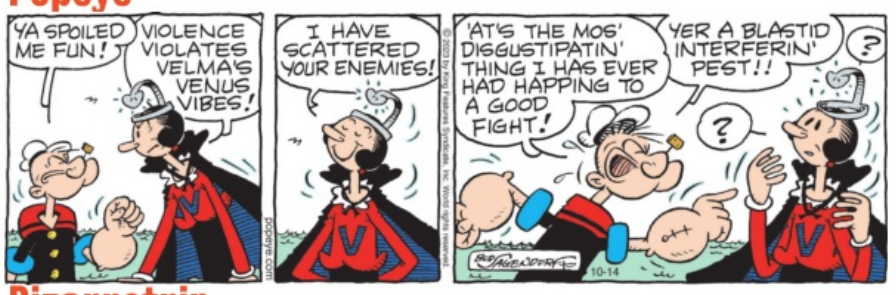


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

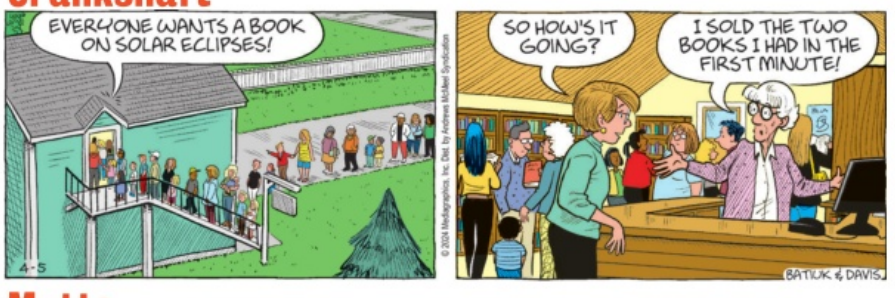


Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may implement your business plans with the help of your strong network. You may receive a big order thanks to your wisdom. There may be a good understanding between you and your spouse, increasing harmony in your domestic life. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments together.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon and may perform well at work. Expect possible promotions or transfers that come with gains. You might also plan to change your current job. Relationships with your boss may improve, and chronic health issues may be resolved, making your family happy.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, control your straightforwardness, as loose talking may affect people around you. You might spend hard-earned money on worthless items. Your mind may work very fast, but it is advised to make important decisions with patience.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the messy situation from the last few days is under control. You are blessed by the moon. You may initiate postponed tasks and be rewarded for your hard work. There could be gains in your business that boost your finances. You might spend money on artefacts or literature and plan for overseas travel.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, things will be under control, and you will enjoy your work. Your focus will be strong, reflecting positively on your work. Your wisdom will help you make difficult professional decisions. Past investments will start paying off now.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Blessed by the moon, your recent disappointments may turn into happiness. You may enjoy your professional and personal life, and your network may help you complete postponed projects. You might start a new venture with the help of your siblings, with strong support from your network.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may not feel well and might have health issues, which could affect your professional and domestic life. You may be upset due to your spouse's health issues, and your patience may be tested many times. It is advised not to invest in new business projects to avoid losses. Students should focus on their studies and avoid distractions.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel disappointed with your current position at work or home and may not enjoy any moments. You might spend hard-earned money on worthless items, affecting your savings. You may plan to migrate from your current place and are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel negativity around you and experience impatience. Your focus on goals may wane, and your grip on projects may slow down, potentially causing business or work losses. You might feel detached from your responsibilities, affecting your daily routine.

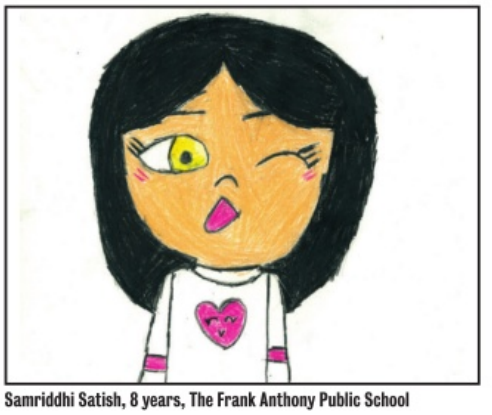
Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Blessed by the moon, you may be able to make quick decisions in your professional life. New business opportunities may arise, boosting your confidence. You might start an innovation with your partner's help, increasing your business prospects in the near future.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may make quick decisions that benefit your daily life. With the help of colleagues, you may likely achieve success easily. Property-related disputes with siblings may be resolved, and you might also expect some short trips.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessed by the moon, new sources of income may open up. Past investments will start paying off in terms of profits. Losses may convert into profits, boosting your financial health. Health issues related to your parents may be resolved.

KIDZONE

Dayani Manicandan, 7 years, Vagdevi Vilas School



Samriddhi Satish, 8 years, The Frank Anthony Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$= \{(11+13) \div (7+5)\}^5$
$= (24 / 12)^5$
$= 2^5 = 32$

BULL'S EYE
anus, ANXIOUS, onus

FAST FIVE

R	A	S	P	Y
E	N	N	U	I
S	T	O	P	E
A	R	R	E	A	L
W	A	K	E	D

STRIKE OUT

S	T	A	T	U	T	E	■	H	E	A	D	S	■	■
■	■	T	■	■	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	■
■	■	U	■	■	■	T	■	A	■	■	■	E	■	■
T	U	N	E	S	■	O	F	F	E	N	D	S	■	■
■	■	M	A	B	■	A	L	L	■	■	■	W	■	■
■	■	I	D	E	A	T	E	D	■	■	■	A	■	■
O	■	E	L	I	■	E	S	T	■	■	■	N	■	■
N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	■	R	U	M	A	N	I	A	■	■	■	E	■	■
A	B	L	A	Z	E	■	O	F	F	E	N	D	■	■
R	■	M	■	E	A	R	■	K	■	■	■	E	■	■
P	L	A	I	D	■	R	■	A	R	A	B	■	■	■
S	■	H	■	E	X	A	C	T	■	W	■	Y	■	■
■	■	U	P	I	N	■	W	■	S	T	A	S	■	■
Y	■	L	■	E	■	T	A	■	S	■	■	T	■	■
A	W	A	R	D	S	■	S	E	E	K	E	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUOTE UNCODE
There is no glory in battle worth the blood it costs.

RIDDLER
1. Pentagon,
2. Flagellate,
3. Debonair,
4. Infantile

MENSA PUZZLE
Circle the bases

SUDOKU

8	1	3	9	7	5	4	6	2
9	7	6	1	2	4	5	3	8
5	4	2	6	8	3	1	7	9
3	2	8	4	9	1	6	5	7
1	5	9	7	6	2	3	8	4
4	6	7	3	5	8	2	9	1
2	3	5	8	4	7	9	1	6
7	9	4	5	1	6	8	2	3
6	8	1	2	3	9	7	4	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
8, AB, Bar, Bear, Sabre, Bakers, Debarks.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$9 - 7 + 1 + 7 = 10$
Medium
$8 - 9 + 5 - 3 = 1$
Hard
$6 \times 3 - 2 \times 2 = 32$

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 136 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Enjoy now, pay later

The team of Kannada movie Not Out is set to create history in Sandalwood by allowing audiences to watch the first half of the movie without buying tickets. The audiences will have the liberty whether or not to watch the second half of the movie. If they want to watch the pre-intermission session, they have to buy tickets during the interval. The movie is slated for release on July 19.

The trailer of Not Out was launched at Kings Club, Nagarabhavi on Friday. Sandalwood actor Srinagar Kitty, director Simple Suni, and Haneef, the ambulance driver who covered the distance between Kannur in Kerala and Bengaluru in 4.18 hours, launched the trailer and wished the crew all the best. V Ravikumar and Shamshuddin A have bankrolled the movie under the Rashtrakuta Pictures banner. Ambarish M is the director while Ajay Prithvi and Rachana Inder are the lead pair. Ajay, who took acting courses at Toronto Film Institute, said he plays the ambulance driver in the movie. "I thank the producers of the movie for giving me the opportunity. I dedicate my character to ambulance vehicle drivers," said Ajay.

Director Ambarish thanked Rashtrakuta Pictures for not only selecting the script written by him but also making the movie. Rachana Inder plays the character of a nurse.

Daali replaces Darling

Dhananjay aka Daali Dhananjay is set to play the lead in the historical movie Halagali. Darling Krishna was supposed to play the lead, but he got busy with shooting of another movie. So, producer Kalyan Chakravarthy Dhulipala decided to have Daali Dhananjay as the hero.

"Halagali is a big-budget movie to be made in five languages. The muhurat function of the movie was held in Mysuru. Pre-production works are completed. We could not wait for Darling Krishna as he is busy with three to four Kannada movies. We have selected Daali Dhananjay as he is apt to play the lead. Regular shoot will begin shortly," said Dhulipala.

Dhananjay said playing the lead in the historical movie is a matter of pride and that he prefers such scripts. "The script of this movie was very interesting. Producer Kalyan Chakravarthy Dhulipala and director Sukesh DK are making this movie with dedication," Dhananjay said.

The movie is expected to be made in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi with a budget of Rs 80 crore. The movie is about the freedom fighters from Bagalkot who fought against the British in 1857. Dhulipala debuts as a producer in Sandalwood with this movie.

Happy for love

Aditi is all excited about fiance Siddharth's upcoming film

Aditi Rao Hydari is all excited about her fiance Siddharth's movie 'Indian 2' which is set to hit the big screens on July 12, 2024. Recently, the 'Heeramandi' actress took to her official Instagram handle to extend her best wishes to her fiance Siddharth.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Aditi reposted a picture of Sid with Kamal Haasan and Shankar which was clicked during the film's promotions.

Along with the picture, the actress also added the word, "period!" with a few heart emojis and reminded that the film is set to release on July 12.

Indian 2 starring Kamal Haasan and directed by Shankar is the upcoming sequel movie for 1996's Indian. Apart from Kamal Haasan, 'Indian 2' also has Siddharth, Kajal Aggarwal, Rakul Preet Singh, SJ Suryah, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Bobby Simha, Vivek, Nedumudi Venu, and others, while the film has music scored by Anirudh Ravichander.

Meanwhile, Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth are currently making headlines as they made their engagement announcement in a heartfelt social media post. Reflecting on how her bond with Siddharth has strengthened her perspective on love, Aditi told India Today, "I wouldn't say [the relationship] changed [me as a person] but it reinforced my belief that love is laughing together. And, with the two of us, it's about being literally like children. So, love, and respect is the most important thing."

Aditi expressed gratitude for the overwhelming love and blessings from well-wishers, emphasizing her ability to balance between her private life and public appreciation. She stated, "I always prefer to view things positively and value my privacy. Despite that, I acknowledge the tremendous amount of love and blessings we have received..."

On the work front, she will next be seen in Lioness, which is directed by Kajri Babbar.

—ETimes

On challenge of losing 26 kg

Acclaimed actor Jaideep Ahlawat is on cloud nine after receiving a lot of love for his latest release, 'Maharaj', for which he shed a remarkable 26 kilos in just five months.

Talking about the transformation, the star said that transforming himself physically and emotionally for the role was challenging for him.

The actor said: "I am overwhelmed by the love and appreciation 'Maharaj' is receiving worldwide... The credit goes to the entire team for putting this together."

Directed by Siddharth P. Malhotra, 'Maharaj' is based on the 1862 Maharaj Libel Case and highlights the life of social reformer Karsandas Mulji, who fought against a religious leader.

"The journey of transforming myself physically and emotionally for this role was challenging, but the response from the audience has made it all worthwhile. I am deeply thankful to all the viewers for their support and encouragement," he added.

Jaideep added: "It's their love that fuels my passion and motivates me to push the boundaries of my craft. I am truly honoured and humbled by this recognition."

Jaideep, who is a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), had his major breakthrough in the 2012 crime film 'Gangs of Wasseypur'. He was subsequently seen in movies such as 'Commando: A One Man Army', 'Gabbar Is Back', and 'Vishwaroopam II'. He also appeared in 'Raees' and 'Raazi'.

However, it was in 2020 that he gained major acclaim for his work in the series 'Paatal Lok'.

— IANS

Not a victim

Actress Avika Gor has opened up on her character Sara in the upcoming Telugu thriller fantasy movie 'Shanmukha', shared that after playing a lot of 'bechari' and victim roles, this was a good change for her.

Reflecting on her role, Avika said: "The character Sara in 'Shanmukha' is trying to investigate something. To play someone who is so curious, interested, and courageous because the character is very confident was interesting for me."

"After playing a lot of 'bechari' and victim roles, this was a good change. Here, I am playing someone who takes leaps and goes out of her way to get things done," she added.

Directed by Shanmugam Sappani and produced by Thulasi Ram Sappani under Sapbro Productions, 'Shanmukha' has a unique blend of thriller and fantasy elements. The music is composed by Ravi Basrur.

The movie also stars Aadi Sai Kumar in the lead.

—IANS